

NRCS Species for Plant Collections 2006

Chloris cucullata

Scientific Name: *Chloris cucullata* Bisch.

Common Name: hooded windmillgrass



Photos by: Shelly Maher, USDA-NRCS

Morphological Characteristics

- native, perennial
- warm season grass
- common across the region of north Texas
- bunchgrass, but sometimes having short rhizomes
- plant height 10-20 inches
- leaf blade 2 to 6 inches folded to a sharp point
- seedheads have 7 to 12 purplish spikes 1 to 2 inches long clustered at the end of stem, spikes turn straw yellow to brownish gray at maturity
- lemma of each spikelet has short awn
- adapted to a wide variety of soil types
- begins growth in early spring and will continue to grow up until the first killing frost
- plants will turn reddish brown during fall and into winter
- seed is produced throughout the growing season with the first crop as early as May

Conservation Use

Why collect this plant? Texas Plant Materials Centers have identified this plant as having potential benefits to the following conservation practice standards: 645 Upland Wildlife Habitat Management; 342 Critical Area Planting; 562 Recreation Area Improvement; 550 Range Planting. The planting of sideoats grama can provide excellent food and cover benefits for wildlife and livestock as well as help conserve our soil. In North Texas there is a need for locally adapted native (ecotypic) plant materials for use in revegetation projects. Your assistance in collecting this plant helps supports this effort and the NRCS conservation practice standards which are employed daily to conserve the natural resources of Texas!

Centers Requesting Seed

Knox City Plant Materials Center

(only from the 43 counties located within the North Texas Ecotype Project)

<http://www.tarleton.edu/~netp/index.html> see link for more information.

How to Collect Seed

1. Identify native plant stands in your area. You can go to the following websites for helpful photos <http://plants.usda.gov> or <http://www.noble.org/imagegallery/index.html> or www.wildflower.org
2. Determine if seed is mature. Mature seed is typically dry and will easily separate from the seed head.
3. Hand strip mature seed by grasping the bottom of the seed head then gently pulling away from the base of the plant. Deposit seed in a brown paper sack. Collect seed from a minimum of 30 to 50 plants.
4. Label each collection as it is made so collections do not get mixed up. Information required includes: Collector's name, number of plants collected, location (parish, city, highway, and GPS coordinates), site description (soil type, slope, and plants growing in association).
5. Complete NRCS-ECS-580; Plant Collection Information Form and mail with collected seeds to the NRCS Plant Materials Center requesting the species.

Knox City Plant Materials Center
3776 FM 1292
Knox City, TX 79529-2514

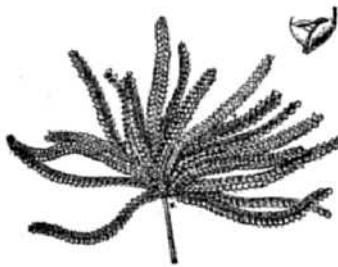
E. Kika de la Garza Plant Materials Center
3409 N FM 1355
Kingsville, TX 78363

East Texas Plant Materials Center
6598 FM 2782
Nacogdoches, TX 75964

Helpful Tips

Look for superior plants that display differences in color, height, or forage abundance and record observations. Differences in growing site or location should be made into separate collections if they are separated by more than 1 mile between sites.

Other Photos



Photos by:
Shelly Maher
USDA-NRCS



USDA-NRCS PLANTS Database / **Hitchcock, A.S. (rev. A. Chase). 1950. *Manual of the grasses of the United States*. USDA Misc. Publ. No. 200. Washington, DC.**

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